

SL7

Photographs by Brian Buroker

Artist Statement

When light falls on an object it illuminates, but also casts a shadow; and the interplay between direct light and cast shadow is what enables us to see and understand form, line, texture and even space.

I look for images that are simple, elegant, and obscure; images that are easily overlooked, hidden in the midst of everyday settings and events. I look for the elements of shape, line, and sometimes texture that combine into unique symmetry and structure. My desire is to create photographs that will stop you in your tracks and cause you to contemplate the subtle wonders of light, shadow, and form you might otherwise have missed.

Many of my photographs feature the creative results of shadow more than the object or lighting itself. In addition, oftentimes I purposely visualize a scene as two-dimensional and shoot with that concept in mind with no intended allusion to a third dimension. The resulting image, tending to be more graphic or illustrative in style, is what I find interesting.

Born in Washington State, I have also lived in Montana, Minnesota, California, and now Utah. I love to travel, and have toured in Canada, Mexico, Hawaii and forty-two of the continental United States. I am married and the father of three children.

Images included in SL7:

- **Z's:** This image would be an example of what I call a photo of opportunity, meaning the opportunity is there for anyone that happens to actually *see* it. This concrete stairway was seen on a college campus. The intense midday sun created deep shadows which may have proven unattractive in most photographs. But when the shadows themselves become the subject a whole new image emerges. A bit of selective framing of the shot created an image which is initially puzzling but understandable after a moment.
- **Racks:** Sometimes places of benign utility can actually become interesting subjects. These bike racks in a public space provided a striking sample of form, line, and texture...the simplest elements of photographic composition. This image incorporates those elements in a way that keeps the eye moving and the mind intrigued.
- **Tank Study:** A refinery in Denver has oil storage tanks arranged in a particularly appealing pattern. I had been interested in photographing them for a long time and eventually found the time. But when I went into the facility office and asked for permission to do so, the foreman turned me away stating that due to security issues the only person that could give permission was

the corporate manager at the national headquarters. Leaving discouraged, I suddenly thought “Fine. Then I’ll write a letter to the national headquarters and just ask!” I did so, and to my surprise was granted permission...with a couple restrictions: I could only shoot on a particular date, during an assigned period of a couple hours, and the facility foreman must remain at my side the entire time. I found this inconvenient but acceptable and showed up at the appointed day. As fate would have it the weather that day was stormy, with occasional sunshine breaking through dark billowing clouds. But lemons can be made into lemonade; watching the cloud movement, positioning my camera in anticipation of the next moment of sunshine, and alternatively taking advantage of periods of subdued moody lighting I made dozens of successful images. This day turned out to be one of my most rewarding photographic experiences.

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